

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously Presented) A method for at least ameliorating a symptom associated with pressure applied to the median nerve of the carpal tunnel of a host, said method comprising:

topically applying an effective amount of a topical NSAID formulation to a palmar dermal surface of said subject proximal to said carpal tunnel;

to ameliorate at least one symptom associated with pressure applied to the median nerve of the carpal tunnel of said host.

2. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said topical NSAID formulation comprises a nonsalicylate NSAID.

3. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said topical formulation is a cream.

4. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said topical formulation is a patch.

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said host is a mammal.

6. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a mammal suffering from carpal tunnel syndrome, said method comprising:

topically applying a nonsalicylate NSAID formulation to a palmar dermis of said mammal for a period of time sufficient for amelioration of at least one symptom of said syndrome to occur;

to treat said mammal.

7. (Original) The method according to Claim 6, wherein said mammal is a human.

8. (Original) The method according to Claim 6, wherein said formulation is a cream.

9. (Original) The method according to Claim 6, wherein said formulation is a patch.
10. (Original) The method according to Claim 6, wherein said symptom is pain.
11. (Previously Presented) A method for treating a human suffering from pain caused by pressure on the median nerve, said method comprising:  
topically applying a nonsalicylate NSAID formulation to the palmar dermis proximal to said median nerve in a manner sufficient to at least reduce said pain;  
to treat said mammal.
12. (Original) The method according to Claim 11, wherein said NSAID formulation is a cream.
13. (Original) The method according to Claim 11, wherein said NSAID formulation is a patch.
14. (Original) The method according to Claim 11, wherein said NSAID is an acetic acid.
15. (Original) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said NSAID is diclofenac.
16. (Original) The method according to Claim 11, wherein said NSAID is indomethacin.
17. (Original) The method according to Claim 11, wherein said NSAID is ibuprofen.
18. (Original) The method according to Claim 11, wherein said NSAID is ketoprofen.
19. (Original) A kit for use in treating a subject suffering from pain associated with carpal tunnel syndrome, said kit comprising:

a topical NSAID formulation; and  
instructions for practicing the method according to Claim 1.

20. (Original) The kit according to Claim 19, wherein said NSAID formulation comprises a nonsalicylate NSAID.

21. (Original) The kit according to Claim 19, wherein said formulation is a cream.

22. (Original) The kit according to Claim 19, wherein said formulation is a patch.

23. (Original) The kit according to Claim 19, wherein said NSAID is an acetic acid.

24. (Previously Presented) A method for at least ameliorating a symptom associated with pressure applied to the median nerve of the carpal tunnel of a host, said method comprising:

contacting a wrist band comprising a hydrogel patch comprising a topical NSAID formulation to a palmar dermal surface proximal to a carpal tunnel of a subject to topically apply an effective amount of said topical NSAID formulation to said palmar dermal surface proximal to said carpal tunnel;

to ameliorate at least one symptom associated with pressure applied to the median nerve of the carpal tunnel of said host.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 24, further comprising holding said patch in place relative to said palmar dermal surface for a period of time.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 25, wherein said period of time is at least about 30 minutes.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 24, wherein said NSAID formulation is at least one of: acetic acid, diclofenac, indomethacin, ibuprofen, and ketoprofen.

28. (Previously Presented) A method for treating a human suffering from pain caused by pressure on the median nerve, said method comprising:  
contacting a wrist band comprising a hydrogel patch comprising a nonsalicylate NSAID formulation to the palmar dermis proximal to said median nerve to topically apply said nonsalicylate NSAID formulation to said palmar dermis;  
to treat said human.

Please enter the following new claims:

29. (New) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said topical NSAID formulation comprises an NSAID in an amount ranging from about 0.1 to about 5%.

30. (New) The method according to Claim 29, wherein said NSAID is diclofenac epolamine.

31. (New) The method according to Claim 30, wherein said topical NSAID formulation is a patch.

32. (New) The method according to Claim 31, wherein said patch comprises 1.3 % of said NSAID.

33. (New) The method according to Claim 32, wherein said patch comprises a hydrogel adhesive present on a polyester felt backing.